



# Pine Grove Elementary School

# HERITAGE

*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*

*Mr. Richard Weber, Principal*

*Dr. Rosanne Reimer, Asst. Principal*

2701 Summit Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21234 410-887-5267

**September 18, 2008**

## HOME OF THE PANDA CALENDAR

### September

- 25 Individual picture day  
Barnes and Noble night (6-8 p.m.)
- 26 Volunteer training (9:30 a.m.)
- 29 **Schools closed for students**
- 30 **Schools closed for Rosh  
Hashanah**

### October

- 6 Math assembly, PK-2 (9:30 a.m.)  
Math assembly, gr. 3-5 (10:30 a.m.)
- 8 Grade 5 interim conferences
- 9 **Schools closed for Yom Kippur**
- 14 Grade 5 Eco-Trekker trip
- 17 **Schools closed for students**
- 23 Book Fair starts

### From the Principal's Desk

The 2008-2009 school year is off to an outstanding start at Pine Grove Elementary School. Our teachers are planning and teaching challenging, engaging lessons in all subject areas. Our students are working conscientiously as they learn the skills they need to be successful. Pine Grove Elementary is an excellent school because of the collaborative efforts of wonderful students, supportive parents, and dedicated teachers and staff members. I am looking forward to working with each member of our

school community as we continue Pine Grove Elementary's tradition of excellence this year.

As we begin a new year, we want to celebrate our students' academic growth during the 2007-2008 school year. The 2007-2008 MSA results for third, fourth, and fifth graders were released in July 2008. We are pleased to report that our third, fourth, and fifth grade scores were higher than state and county averages in all tested areas. In reading, 91 percent of our third graders, 93 percent of our fourth graders, and 92 percent of our fifth graders scored at the proficient level or higher. In mathematics, 96 percent of our third graders, 96 percent of our fourth graders, and 94 percent of our fifth graders scored at the proficient level or higher. These scores are the result of strong instructional programs delivered by our excellent teachers, our students' outstanding efforts, and our supportive parents. We should be proud of our accomplishments. As usual, Pine Grove Elementary School made adequate yearly progress.

We will continue to build on last year's academic gains during this school year. Our teachers are working collaboratively to plan reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and mathematics lessons. We will continue to develop school-wide reading, writing, and mathematics standards for

students that focus on the higher-level skills outlined in the Voluntary State Curriculum. We are committed to helping all of our students reach their fullest potential and achieve their goals.

Please welcome the following staff members to Pine Grove Elementary: GiGi Clanton, Sheila Strawberry, and Grace Wilkerson, building service workers; Lauren Williams-Moore, reading specialist; Gloria Blair, resource teacher; Sue Securro, personal assistant; and Danielle Johnson, grade 3 teacher.

At our annual Open House and Back-to-School Picnic on August 21, 483 students and parents attended. The turnout was remarkable. It was a night that exemplified the spirit of Pine Grove Elementary School. It is my pleasure to serve as the principal of such a fine institution. Until next month...Rick

### **New Opening Time for 2008-2009**

During the 2008-2009 school year, breakfast students will enter the building through the door by the cafeteria at 9 a.m. The bell for general admission will ring at 9:08 a.m. Announcements will begin at 9:15 a.m., as usual.

### **New Dismissal Procedure for 2008-2009**

At dismissal, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten walkers/parent pickups will be dismissed from the pre-kindergarten door (near the gym). Walkers/parent pickups in grades 1-5 will be dismissed from the door by the cafeteria. Only bus riders will be dismissed from the main entrance.

### **Cafeteria News**

Welcome back. I would like to introduce myself. My name is LuAnn Hawk, and I am the person-in-charge (PIC) of the cafeteria. Rachel Henninger is the server. The cafeteria will be sponsoring

give-aways periodically throughout the school year. The day will be noted on each month's menu. On these days, children purchasing a full lunch will receive a prize. If you have any questions, I am in my office from 8:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m., or you may reach me at 410-887-5267 during that time. My email address is [lhawk@bcps.org](mailto:lhawk@bcps.org).

The price of a student lunch is \$2.90, which includes milk. Our snacks range from \$.30 to \$.50. Breakfast is \$1.40. Milk is \$.60.

Each child is issued a lunch account when they enroll in school. You can put money on this account so that your child does not have to bring money to school. (If you prefer that your child bring money each day, please have them carry it in a wallet or Ziploc bag. This helps eliminate lost money.) Send a check in an envelope labeled "Attention cafeteria." Make sure your child's first and last name is on the check. If you have multiple children, you may write one check, but be sure to let the cafeteria know how to divide it up. This helps to expedite the children through the line. I will send home low-balance letters on Wednesdays. Please watch the date on the letter, as they sometimes do not come home right away.

The cafeteria will lend up to \$6. After that, we will offer the children cereal and milk for lunch.

Children eating breakfast with the school should enter the building at 9 a.m. via the double doors near the cafeteria. These doors are labeled as the breakfast entrance. If your child rides the bus, they will need to let the bus driver know they are going to eat breakfast.

### **Pine Grove Student News**

**Mrs. DeMonbrun's prekindergarten students** are off to a great start as they learn about the rules and

routines in school. They are learning new skills to help them get ready for reading!

WOW! What a great group of **kindergartners** come into **K-1** every day! With the help of Gary Gator, the boys and girls quickly learned classroom routines and are enjoying their full-day kindergarten program. The Crazy Dragon taught the children classroom rules. Duso the Dolphin is introducing them to the nine Pine Grove Virtues, and Spot the Writing Dog is teaching the students the seven habits of good writers. The children have been practicing their rhyming skills, their letter identification skills, and have been enjoying their Big Books during shared reading time. Telling time, counting, place value, and investigations with math manipulatives keep the students busy with their math skills. We're going to have a fun-filled year in **K-1**!

The **boys and girls in Mrs. Shanahans's third grade class** have shown the virtue of responsibility in many ways. They have shown this virtue by completing all homework assignments and returning important papers. They have been following the third grade expectations and showing responsible behavior. They have all had a wonderful start to the new school year.

**Mrs. Glascock's class** has done a wonderful job of making the transition to third grade. The students are working on their reading strategies and their reading fluency. In health, the students are learning about ways to stay healthy and the steps to conflict resolution.

### **Mr. Pugh's CD**

For the third year in a row, Mr. Pugh has released a CD that encourages students to read and enjoy rock music at the same time. Songs are sung to the tunes of songs you might hear on the radio, but the lyrics have been changed to

show students all the things that can be learned by reading and going to the library.

You can get a free CD with any donation of \$5 or more to the Pine Grove Elementary PTA. One-hundred percent of the donation will go to the PTA. Get your CD early so you can sing along when Mr. Pugh performs at Barnes & Noble Night on Thursday, September 25.

Donations may be made through the following website:

[www.RockMusicForEducation.com](http://www.RockMusicForEducation.com).

### **Character Education**

You have probably heard a lot about character education being a part of school programs for the last few years. But, did you know that Pine Grove Elementary was one of the first schools in Maryland to actually have a character education program? It was a part of our School Improvement Plan and was initiated in 1997.

During the summer of 1997, Mrs. Ambridge, Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. Filbert (our former principal), and I attended a week-long workshop focused on developing a school-wide character education program. For the next few months in the Heritage, I will tell more about the character education program that was piloted in our school.

### **Volunteers**

We would like to thank our volunteers for all of their help so far this year! Volunteer training will be held on Friday, September 26, 2008.

### **Fall Fitness Fundraiser**

The fall fitness fundraiser for Pine Grove Elementary is just around the corner. Time to get training...dust off your sneakers, grab the kids, get the dog, and go outside to enjoy a walk around the neighborhood. Walking is all that it takes

to get you ready for Pine Grove Elementary PTA's Second Annual Walkathon. It's a great activity to get the family physically active and help raise money for the school.

When: Tuesday, November 18, during American Education Week

Where: Pine Grove Elementary

Who: Your entire family—kids, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles

How: Get donations and come walk, jog, or run the course

More information will be coming home in the near future!

### **Lost and Found**

Please remind your children to check the lost and found, located in front of the cafeteria. We already have quite a collection of sweaters and jackets.

### **Open Door**

The Open Door, our new on-site childcare provider, is seeking parents for a variety of part-time paid positions. Employees may work mornings from 7-9 a.m. or afternoons from 3:30-6 p.m., or both shifts. School-age children of employees may attend The Open Door free of charge. For further information, please call The Open Door at 410-825-6300.

### **Cartridge Recycling**

The recycling program is underway!! Thank you to everyone who has donated their used cartridges and cell phones. There is a box on the table in the lobby for smaller cartridges and a larger box under the table for the bigger cartridges. Please continue to send in your used cartridges and cell phones to raise money for our school and keep our planet green!

Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Greco at 410-887-5267.

### **Office Depot**

Every time parents, students, and school supporters give our 5% Back to Schools ID number when buying qualifying school supplies at Office Depot, Pine Grove Elementary receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. Our ID number is 70046120.

### **A+ Bonus Bucks**

Please register your Giant card so Pine Grove Elementary can earn A+ Bonus Bucks every time you shop. You may designate Pine Grove Elementary by following the directions at [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus). If you have any questions, you may call 877-275-2758.

### **Target**

Remember, your purchases at Target can help donate money to our school! When you shop at Target, ask how you can donate money to Pine Grove Elementary.